

REMARKS

Claims 1-24, 30, 31 and 33 are pending. By this Amendment, original claims 1-10 are presented as previously once amended and allowed, new claims 11-24, 30 and 31 are re-presented as allowed, and new claim 33 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.173(c), support for each claim amendment and added claim has been indicated in previous amendments.

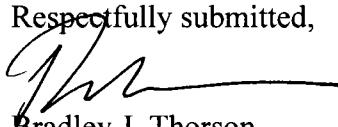
Claim Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claim 33 was rejected as anticipated by Yokoyama '118. Solely to advance prosecution and without any waiver or disclaimer of subject matter, claim 33 has been canceled, thereby mooting the rejection. Since all other pending claims have been allowed, Applicant respectfully requests notice of the same and that this case be forthwith passed to issue.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley J. Thorson

Registration No. 52,288

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 349-5756